

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed March 17, 2008 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status and Amendment of the Claims

Claims 1-23 are currently pending.

No claims stand allowed.

Claims 1-23 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

New claims 24-55 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 24-37 are method claims. Claims 38-45 and 46-51 are non-means-plus-function apparatus claims corresponding to method claims 24-31 and 32-37, respectively. Claims 52 and 53 are means-plus-function apparatus claims corresponding to method claims 24 and 32, respectively. Claims 54 and 55 are *In re Beauregard* claims corresponding to method claims 24 and 32, respectively. Support for these claims is found in the specification, figures, and claims as originally filed. For example, support for Claims 24-31, 38-45, 52, and 54 is found in FIG. 10 and paragraphs 64-65 of the specification. Additionally, support for Claims 32-37, 46-51, 53, and 55 is found FIG. 11 and paragraphs 64 and 66 of the specification.

With this Amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as the invention.¹ With this Amendment, Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of Claim 12 moot.

¹ Office Action mailed March 17, 2008, ¶ 3.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Oguchi^{2 3}. With this Amendment, Claims 1-23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of Claims 1-23 moot.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Request for Interview

The Applicants respectfully request an interview to expedite the prosecution of this application. Submitted herewith is an Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below to schedule a telephonic interview to discuss the matter.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN LLP

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² U.S. Publication No. 2003/0142680 to Oguchi.

³ Office Action at ¶ 5.